Remarks

In the action, claims 1-13 were rejected as being anticipated by Adams et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,967,358.

New claim 14 has been added. Claims 1-14 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102(b)

The rejection of claims 1-13 based upon Adams et al. is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 is directed to a steam kettle lid assembly including:

> an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, a downwardly extending boss positioned at an intermediate point along the arm, the boss including a pin receiving opening therein, **the arm having a first end located away from the boss;**
>
> a lid including a centrally positioned projection extending from an upper surface thereof, the projection including a pin receiving opening therein, the projection positioned within the boss of the elongated arm with the pin receiving opening of the boss aligned with the pin receiving opening of the projection, **the lid including a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid;**
>
> **a pin passing through the aligned pin receiving openings for coupling the projection to the boss and for preventing rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm;**

Thus, claim 1 is specifically directed to a kettle lid assembly in which the lid has a condensate rim, the lid is connected to an elongated arm, and a rotational position of the condensate rim relative to a first end of the elongated arm is maintained via a pin passing through aligned pin receiving openings on an arm boss and a lid projection. As explained in the specification, this construction provides a floating lid arrangement relative to the arm, but will maintain the condensate rim in a desired position to be effective when the lid is raised and lowered relative to a steam kettle.

In contrast, Adams et al. is directed to a pressure relief lid that is provided on tanks such as gasoline truck tanks. A close examination of Adams et al. reveals that the lid 48 does not have a condensate rim extending from its lower surface. Further, a lid on a tank such as a gasoline truck tank would have no need for a condensate rim because the contents of such tanks

are not heated and therefore condensation on the underside of the lid is not an issue. Applicants respectfully submit that the 102(b) rejection falls short for at least this reason.

Further, the action asserts that the Adams et al. "elongated arm 116 has a downwardly extending boss which includes elements 120 and 22 and a pin receiving opening 112. The lid has a projection at lead line 88 in figure 2, and a pin receiving opening 88. The pin is element 90, and pivot connections are shown at 136 and 128." Under this analysis, the pin 90 would have to prevent rotational movement of the lid 48 in order to satisfy the limitations expressly set forth in claim 1. However, close examination reveals that the stem 90 does not prevent rotation of the lid 48. As best seen in Fig. 2, the stem 90 passes through the opening 88 of the lid 48, but there is no structure between the stem 90 and opening 88 that would prevent the lid from rotating about the stem 90. For this reason, Adams et al. provides a different structure to prevent rotation of the lid relative to the arm, namely brackets 133 that extend upward from the lid 48 alongside the arm 116 as seen in Figs. 18 and 19 and described at col. 5, lines 19-20. Accordingly, Adams et al. fails to teach or suggest a kettle lid assembly in which the lid has a condensate rim, the lid is connected to an elongated arm, and a rotational position of the condensate rim relative to a first end of the elongated arm is maintained via a pin passing through aligned pin receiving openings on an arm boss and a lid projection. Applicant therefore requests that the rejection of claim 1, as well as claims 2-6, be withdrawn.

Claim 7

Amended claim 7 is directed to a steam kettle assembly including:

> an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, **the arm having a first end**;
>
> a lid including **a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid**;
>
> wherein one of the arm and the lid includes a female coupling member extending therefrom **at a location away from the first end** and having a coupling opening therein and a fastener receiving opening therein, and the other of the arm and the lid includes a male coupling member extending therefrom, the male coupling member having a fastener receiving opening therein, the male coupling member positioned within the coupling opening of the female coupling member such that the fastener receiving opening of the female coupling member is aligned with the fastener receiving opening of the male coupling member;
>
> **a fastener passing through the aligned fastener receiving openings for coupling the male coupling member to the female coupling member and for preventing rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm;**

Thus, claim 7 is specifically directed to a kettle lid assembly in which the lid has a condensate rim, the lid is connected to an elongated arm, and a rotational position of the condensate rim relative to a first end of the elongated arm is maintained via a fastener passing through aligned fastener receiving openings on an male coupling member and a female coupling member. As explained in the specification, this construction provides a floating lid arrangement relative to the arm, but will maintain the condensate rim in a desired position to be effective when the lid is raised and lowered relative to a steam kettle.

As explained above with respect to claim 1, the Adams et al lid 48 does not have, or even need a condensate rim. Further the Adams et al. lid arrangement does not prevent rotation of the lid 48 relative to arm 116 by using a fastener passing through aligned openings of a male and female coupling member. Instead, the Adams et al arrangement uses brackets 133 that extend upward from the lid 48 alongside the arm 116 as seen in Figs. 18 and 19 and described at col. 5, lines 19-20.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claim 7, as well as claims 8-10, are patentably distinguishable over Adams et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11

Amended claim 7 is directed to a method of attaching a steam kettle lid for movement between an open position relative to an opening of a steam kettle and a closed position relative the opening of the steam kettle including the steps of:

> providing an arm movable between an upward position and a downward position;
>
> providing a lid with **a condensate rim extending from its lower surface and located toward a side portion of the lid**;
>
> providing a female coupling member on one of the arm and the lid;
>
> providing a male coupling member on the other of the arm and the lid;
>
> **connecting the female coupling member to the male coupling member in a manner which permits floating movement of the lid relative to the arm, but prevents rotational movement of the lid to maintain the condensate rim in a substantially fixed rotational alignment with a side of the steam kettle.**

Thus, the method set forth in claim 11 requires that a steam kettle lid with condensate rim be connected to a movable arm using a female coupling member and male coupling member that are connected in a manner that prevents rotational movement of the lid to maintain the condensate rim in a substantially fixed rotational alignment with a side of the steam kettle.

Again, Adams et al. does not describe lid with a condensate rim. Further, Adams et al. does not describe a lid arrangement in which rotational movement between the lid and an arm is prevented by the manner in which a male and female coupling member are connected together. Instead, the Adams et al arrangement uses brackets 133 that extend upward from the lid 48 alongside the arm 116 as seen in Figs. 18 and 19 and described at col. 5, lines 19-20.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claim 11, as well as claim 12, is patentably distinguishable over Adams et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

Amended claim 13 is directed to a steam kettle system including:

> a kettle including an upper opening for receiving;
> an elongated arm;
> a steam kettle lid having a central portion, a first side portion, a top, and a bottom, **a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid, the central portion non-rotatably coupled to the arm at an intermediate point along the arm via a floating, non-rotating coupling to maintain a desired location of the condensate rim relative to the arm**;
> wherein the arm includes a portion extending outward beyond a perimeter of the lid at the first side portion of the lid, such portion being pivoted to permit movement of the lid between a down position in which the lid is substantially horizontal and rests on the upper opening to close the kettle, and an up position in which the lid is angled relative to the horizontal and is raised off of the upper opening to provide access to the kettle, **the first side portion of the lid, including the condensate rim, being located below the central portion of the lid when the lid is in the up position such that condensate on the bottom of the lid runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle**.

Thus, claim 13 is specifically directed to a steam kettle system in which the central portion of a lid is non-rotatably coupled to an elongated arm via a floating, non-rotating coupling so that a condensate rim of the lid is maintained in a desired position to be located below the central portion of the lid when the lid is in the up position such that

condensate on the bottom of the lid runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle.

As previously explained, Adams et al. does not disclose a steam kettle system but instead discloses a lid arrangement for tanks such as gasoline truck tanks. Further, Adams et al. does not disclose a lid having a condensate rim. Still further, Adams et al. does not disclose using a floating, non-rotating coupling at a central portion of a lid to prevent rotation of a lid relative to an arm. Instead, the Adams et al arrangement uses brackets 133 that extend upward from the lid 48 alongside the arm 116 as seen in Figs. 18 and 19 and described at col. 5, lines 19-20.

For all of the above reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 is requested.

New Claim 14

New claim 14 is directed to a steam kettle system including:

> a kettle including an upper opening;
> an elongated arm;
> a steam kettle lid having a central portion, a first side portion, a top, and a bottom, the central portion coupled to the arm at an intermediate point along the arm via a floating coupling, **a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid**;
> wherein the arm includes a portion extending outward beyond a perimeter of the lid and connected to provide a pivoting movement of the between a down position in which the lid is located substantially horizontal and rests on the upper opening to close the kettle, and an up position in which the lid is angled relative to the horizontal and is raised off of the upper opening to provide access to the kettle;
> wherein a **rotational position of the lid relative to the arm is substantially fixed so that the first side portion of the lid, including the condensate rim, is located below the central portion of the lid when the arm is in the up position such that condensate on the bottom of the lid runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle**.

Thus, the invention defined by claim 14 solves the problem of providing a steam kettle system in which a lid is coupled to an arm via a floating coupling, but in which a rotational position of the lid relative to the arm is substantially fixed to maintain the condensate rim in a desired position when the arm is raised.

As previously explained, Adams et al. does not disclose a steam kettle system but instead discloses lid arrangement for tanks such as gasoline truck tanks. Adams et al. does not disclose a lid having a condensate rim. Further, applicants submit that Adams et al. contains no teaching

pertinent to solving the problem of maintaining a desired position of a condensate rim in connection with a lid of a steam kettle system.

For these reasons, applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of pending claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance and this application should therefore be passed to issue.

If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this paper, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIMS - MARKED UP VERSION

1 (Once Amended). A steam kettle lid assembly, comprising:

an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, a downwardly extending boss positioned at an intermediate point along the arm, the boss including a pin receiving opening therein, the arm having a first end located away from the boss;

a lid including a centrally positioned projection extending from an upper surface thereof, the projection including a pin receiving opening therein, the projection positioned within the boss of the elongated arm with the pin receiving opening of the boss aligned with the pin receiving opening of the projection, the lid including a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid;

a pin passing through the aligned pin receiving openings for coupling the projection to the boss and for preventing rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm; and

wherein a cross-sectional size of the pin is smaller than a size of the pin receiving opening of the projection to permit floating movement of the projection and the lid.

2 (Once Amended). The steam kettle lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the elongated arm includes a pivoting connection at the first end for permitting movement thereof.

7 (Once Amended). A lid assembly, comprising:

an elongated arm movable between an upward position and a downward position, the arm having a first end;

a lid including a condensate rim extending from a lower surface thereof and positioned toward a first side of the lid;

wherein one of the arm and the lid includes a female coupling member extending therefrom at a location away from the first end and having a coupling opening therein and a fastener receiving opening therein, and the other of the arm and the lid includes a male coupling member extending therefrom, the male coupling member having a fastener receiving opening therein, the male coupling member positioned within the coupling opening of the female coupling member such that the fastener receiving opening of the female coupling member is aligned with the fastener receiving opening of the male coupling member;

a fastener passing through the aligned fastener receiving openings for coupling the male coupling member to the female coupling member and for preventing rotational movement of the lid so as to maintain a desired rotational position of the condensate rim relative to the first end of the arm; and

wherein a size of the fastener is smaller than a size of the fastener receiving opening of the male coupling member to permit floating movement of the lid.

11 (Once Amended). A method of attaching a steam kettle lid for movement between an open position relative to an opening of a steam kettle and a closed position relative the opening of the steam kettle, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an arm movable between an upward position and a downward position;

providing a lid with a condensate rim extending from its lower surface and located toward a side portion of the lid;

providing a female coupling member on one of the arm and the lid;

providing a male coupling member on the other of the arm and the lid;

connecting the female coupling member to the male coupling member in a manner which permits floating movement of the lid relative to the arm, but prevents rotational movement of the lid to maintain the condensate rim in a substantially fixed rotational alignment with a side of the steam kettle.

13 (Once Amended). A steam kettle [lid assembly] system, comprising:

a kettle including an upper opening;

an elongated arm;

a steam kettle lid having a central portion, a first side portion, a top, and a bottom, a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid, the central portion non-rotatably coupled to the arm at an intermediate point along the arm via a floating, non-rotating coupling to maintain a desired location of the condensate rim relative to the arm, [a condensate rim extending from the bottom of the lid along at least the first side portion of the lid];

wherein the arm includes a portion extending outward beyond a perimeter of the lid at the first side portion of the lid, such portion being pivoted to permit movement of the lid between a down position in which the lid is substantially horizontal and rests on the upper opening to close the

kettle, and an up position in which the lid is angled relative to the horizontal and is raised off of the upper opening to provide access to the kettle, the first side portion of the lid, including the condensate rim, being located below the central portion of the lid when the lid is in the up position [for allowing] such that condensate on the bottom of the lid [to] runs downward toward the condensate rim, off of the condensate rim and into the kettle.